March 7, 1999

Dear Harold,

I apologize again for the confusion with the birthday cards!! I was impressed with a former neighbor ladies system which was very simple. She bought, signed, stamped and addressed cards in the order (month) they were to be mailed. I grabbed the whole month of March, some of which were to be sent in April (or at least very late March) and...there you have it. The message and thought were proper and sincere, however. I can't let that happen again and it cautions me for the future!! So, you see, it did some good!!!

My little Mexican girl wants me to be one of 200 invited guests for her first communion July 31. It will be held in Mecico City since her grandmother's birthday is at the same time!! Most everyone says. 'Don't go..'" because of the problems caused there by the poverty (such as cabbies holding one up or delivering one to a different address and into thr hands of bandidos); even the librarian who checked out a book on Mexico I got cautioned me to "wear a money belt" which she did thrice more before I left her station!!' Most meaningful to me is one of my son's workmates who was a resident of Mexico City and says to stay away as an individual traveler!! Moneywise and timewise, I have no other problem with going there and think it can be no worse than Korea!!!Of course, there we were protected by grouping together in bands of GIs!! I'll do my best to go, since the little girl wants me to attend very badly and her grandfather is a doctor which means their social station must be high!!!! WE shall see.

While at the library I picked up three hardcover books on sale. - KRUSCHEV REMEMBERS by Crankshaw, WITNESS TO POWER by Ehrlichman and MARINA AND LEE by Priscilla Johnson McMillan. Each was $1 so I figured it was a cheap way to add to my Meager Library (ML)!! I never found a reason to buy Priscilla's book and felt I could spare a buck since other authors cite her in text and footnotes. She, in turn is trying to make a buck by exploiting her unique position in history: knowing Senator JFK, interviewing a young greenhorn defector LHO, meeting the alleged assassin's mother, Marguerite, and becoming a confidante of the alleged assassim's wife, Marina. The book would have been better entitled, "MARINEMAN LEE!" FOR IT IS A CONDEMNATION OF HIM. Since there was no stenographic or electronic recording of what went on, Priscilla's accounts of conversations between and among people is absolute heresay!! She started with his guilt and was very careful and selective in picking words, phrases and innuendoes that made him appear as a very bitter, negative and "worthless" human. In fact she nudged the reader to the conclusion that Lee cradled the fatal rifle!!! During Marina's pre-LHO days, Priscilla took great care to show her as "pure and chaste" - just the opposite of Mailer's OSWALD STALE where he showed both as sexual deviates and even a bit twinky!!! Priscilla was trying to turn magazine research into a

- more -

financial fortune!! No adult can describe their 4-year-old days as "bare branches became filigreed with the first shoots of green." Neither could a child of that age "hate' the word, politics or "feel" that Uncle Joe (Stalin) could tolerate the sickening poverty while professing that he loved hamanity, especially children!!! Priscilla seemed to believe she could turn a flock of vignettes into a story by applying her self-assigned vast literary talents. She even provided a motive - that Lee liked jFK!!! And outlines how that fits the overall Oswald mystique!!! He was guilty from start to finish of the book and she steers the reader along that route throughout!! I would not care to read a McMillan account of a football or baseball game!! After finishing the book, I ~~analyzed~~ questioned the wisdom of spending a dollar!!!

First of all, if the bullet magic in Dealey Plaza, NEVER happened, then the "story" changes significantly One of the principals at the ASK94 convention stated that, "We will only begin to understand the JFK event when we find out who LHO really was!!"

Best regards and wishes,

Paul H.

Paul

P.S. I must be more prudent and caredul with my dollars from here on since I never cared to own the book or read it on any other merits!!